

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMQMBASSY KINSHASA 21
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PDEV ELAB MILI AO CU
SUBJ: CUBANS DISCUSS ANGOLAN CIVILIAN PERSONNEL NEEDS

1. GRANMA, MARCH 8, REPORTS ON DISCUSSION BETWEEN CUBAN CP SECRETARIAT MEMBER JORGE RISQUET AND MEMBERS OF CUBAN CHE GUEVARA PEDAGOGICAL BRIGADE (NOW 732 MEMBERS RATHER THAN ORIGINALLY PROCLAIMED 1000) SOON TO DEPART TO UNDERTAKE SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHING IN ANGOLA. (COMMENT: RISQUET IS BELIEVED TO RESIDE USUALLY IN ANGOLA WHERE HE OVERSEES CUBAN INVOLVEMENT. HIS PRESENCE HERE MAY SUGGEST THAT CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA IS UNDER REVIEW).

2. RISQUET STATES THAT, DUE TO EXODUS OF PORTUGUESE TECHNICIANS, "THOUSANDS" OF ANGOLAN SCHOOLS, FACTORIES, FARMS, HOSPITALS, CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSPORT FIRMS, WAREHOUSES, STORES FISHING BOATS, REFRIGERATION FACILITIES, LABORATORIES, OFFICES, AND ARCHIVES ARE INOPERATIVE. TO COPE WITH THIS PROBLEM, ANGOLANS HAVE DECIDED TO CONTRACT UP TO THIRTY THOUSAND FOREIGN PERSONNEL - THE "IMMENSE MAJORITY" FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

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3. RISQUET POINTS OUT THAT CUBANS WORKING IN ANGOLA CAN PURSUE THEIR TASKS IN ATMOSPHERE OF CALM (TRANQUILIDAD) BECAUSE ANGOLAN ARMED FORCES (FAPLA AND MILITIA) ARE SUCCESSFULLY SECURING FRONTIER AND DOMESTIC SECURITY.

RISQUET DOES NOT MENTION CUBAN TROOPS.

4. RISQUET, CITING FIDEL, STATES THAT WHILE CUBA IS REPAYING SOVIET HELP INDIRECTLY BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO "OTHER BORTHERS WH NEED HELP," ANGOLA WILL RETURN CUBAN HELP BY ASSISTING PEOPLES OF NAMIBIA, ZIMBABWE, AND SOUTH AFRICA. (COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT RISQUET'S COMMENT ON REPAYING SOVIET HELP IS NOT MEAT TO BE CONSTRUED LITERALLY.)

5. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST OCCASION THAT WE HAVE NOTED CUBANS CITING SUPPOSED ANGOLAN REQUIREMENT FOR THIRTY THOUSAND CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, CUBANS AT END OF 1977 AGREEZD TO DOUBLE THEIR CIVILIAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA (WHICH, BASED ON CUBAN FIGURES, WOULD MAKE CUBANCIVILIAN PRESENCE RISE TO ALMOST SIX THOUSAND.) WE HAVE NOTED SIGNATURE IN RECENT WEEKS OF NEW COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH ANGOLANS IN FIELDS SUCH AS PLANNING, AND ECONOMICS OF AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, AND THE FOOD INDUSTRY. PRESUMABLY, FULFILLMENT OF THESE AND OTHER NEW AGREEMENTS MIGHT REQUIRE MORE CIVILIAN PERSONNEL THAN ORIGINALLY STATED. WE ARE INTRIGUED, HOWEVER, BY RISQUET'S HIGH ESTIMATE OF ANGOLA'S CIVILIAN REQUIREMENTS. THIS ESTIMATE, COUPLED WITH OPTIMISTIC EVALUATION OF FAPLA SECURITY CAPABILITIES, COULD PROVIDE BASIS, SHOULD CUBAN LEADERSHIP SO DECIDE, TO GIVE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA MORE MARKEDLY CIVILIAN COMPLEXION. SUCH A MOVE, INDEED, WOULD BE IN CUBA'S ECONOMIC INTEREST SINCE, AS FIDEL CASTRO POINTED OUT TO CODEL REUSS, CUBA IS NOW PREPARED TO CHARGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECIPIENTS FOR CIVILIAN, BUT NOT MILITARY, HELP.
LANE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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